

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Dig Safe Notice No. 598

In Re Vermont Telephone Company, Inc., Alleged                     )  
Violation of October 13, 2008, as reported by Vermont         )  
Telephone Company, Inc.   )

Order entered: 11/19/2009

**ORDER RE: NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION**

**Background**

1. Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 7001 et. seq., and Vermont Public Service Board Rule 3.800, the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department") issued a Notice of Probable Violation of Underground Utility Damage Prevention System ("NOPV") to Vermont Telephone Company, Inc. ("Respondent").
2. Incident Date: October 13, 2008
3. Incident Location: Falcon Ridge Road adjacent road to 705 Salt Ash Road, Plymouth, VT
4. Name and Address of Company that Reported the Incident to the Department: Vermont Telephone Company, Inc., 354 River Street, Springfield, VT 05156-2005
5. Date Incident Reported to Effected Utility: October 13, 2008
6. Date NOPV issued by Department: July 31, 2009 (#1610)
7. Department's Statement of Evidence Supporting the Alleged Violation: "The Department of Public Service investigated this incident and determined the following details. On 9/17/08, the Hawk Mountain Resort made a notice of excavation activities to Dig Safe System Inc. Vermont Telephone did not locate and mark its underground facilities, in the area of the proposed excavation. This resulted in an unmarked service wire being damaged causing a phone service outage to 1 customer which was repaired approximately 2 hours after notification of the damage. The Department of Public Service issued 10 Notices of Probable Violation (NOPV's) to Vermont Telephone during the 12 months preceding this incident."
8. Statute, Rule, Regulation or Order Allegedly violated: 30 V.S.A. § 7006
9. The Department's Recommended Remedial Action(s) (Including Civil Penalties): Civil penalty in the amount of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00).

10. The NOPV, along with instructions concerning how to respond to the NOPV, was sent to Vermont Telephone Company, Inc., on July 31, 2009.<sup>1</sup> To date, Vermont Telephone Company, Inc., has not filed a response to the NOPV.

### **Conclusion and Order**

Public Service Board ("Board") Rule 3.807(C) provides:

Within 30 days of receipt of a Notice of Probable Violation, any person who is the subject of an enforcement proceeding pursuant to that Notice shall make a written response to the Department and to the Board, with a copy to the Company that reported the alleged violation.

Accordingly, we conclude that it is appropriate to make a binding disposition of this matter *by default*, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. Section 809(d).

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Public Service Board of the State of Vermont that:

Within thirty days of the date of this Order, Vermont Telephone Company, Inc., shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00) by submitting to the Public Service Board a check in that amount made payable to the State of Vermont, and sent to the Public Service Board at 112 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2701.

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1. Letter of Hans E. Mertens, dated July 31, 2009.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009.

<u>s/James Volz</u>	)	
	)	PUBLIC SERVICE
	)	
<u>s/David C. Coen</u>	)	BOARD
	)	
	)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/John D. Burke</u>	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: November 19, 2009

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson  
Clerk of the Board

*NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)*

*Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further Order by this Board or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within ten days of the date of this decision and order.*